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REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed December 20, 2006, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this Application, Applicant submits the following remarks, has canceled claims and has added new claims. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1-25 were pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 1-2, 6-7, and 13-15 have been canceled. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute at least some of the canceled claims and similar claims in one or more related Applications. Claim 26 has been added. Accordingly, claims 3-5, 8-12, and 16-26 are now pending in this Application. Claims 3, 8, 10, 16, and 18 are independent claims.

Preliminary Matters

The Office Action noted, on page 2, that the IDS submitted on July 24, 2006 was placed of record in the file and is being considered by the Examiner. However, the copy of the PTO-1449 form sent together with the Office Action did not include the Examiner's initials next to any of the references cited. Applicant respectfully requests that the next correspondence from the PTO include a copy of the PTO-1449 form with the Examiner's initials next to each reference considered since this earlier submitted IDS was properly submitted by applicant.

Please note that Applicant has included an extra copy of the PTO-1449 form from the IDS submitted on July 24, 2006 for the convenience of the Examiner.

Allowed Claims

Claims 3, 4, 8-10, and 16-18 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten claims 3, 8, 10, 16, and 18 to include all of the limitations

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of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 3, 8, 10, 16, and 18 are now in allowable condition.

Because claims 4-5 and 21-23 depend from and further limit claim 3, claims 4-5 and 21-23 are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons as claim 3. Additionally, it should be understood that the dependent claims recite additional features which further patentably distinguish over the cited prior art.

Because claims 9, 11-12, and 24-25 depend from and further limit claim 8, claims 9, 11-12, and 24-25 are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons as claim 8. Additionally, it should be understood that the dependent claims recite additional features which further patentably distinguish over the cited prior art.

Because claims 17, 19-20, and 26 depend from and further limit claim 16, claims 17, 19-20, and 26 are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons as claim 16. Additionally, it should be understood that the dependent claims recite additional features which further patentably distinguish over the cited prior art.

Newly Added Claims

Claim 26 has been added and is believed to be in allowable condition. Claim 26 depends from claim 16. Support for claim 16 is provided within the Specification, for example, on page 5, lines 24-26 and on page 9, lines 19-27. No new matter has been added.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Amendment, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicant's Representative at the number below.

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Applicant hereby petition for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this Amendment, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3661.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-2900, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Ari Behar", is written over a horizontal line.

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